



Comparing the Colonies

21 Introduction

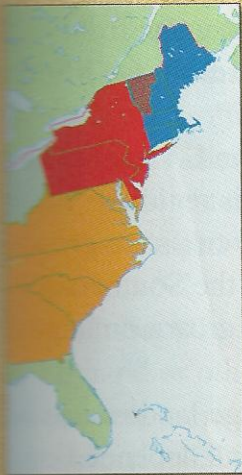
In Chapter 6, you read about the first English colonies in America. In this chapter, you will learn about the other colonies that were established in the part of the New World that later became the United States.

By the mid 1700s, there were 13 **British** colonies in America. Most of them were located along the Atlantic coastline. They can be divided into three large areas, or **colonial regions**: New England, Middle, and Southern Colonies.

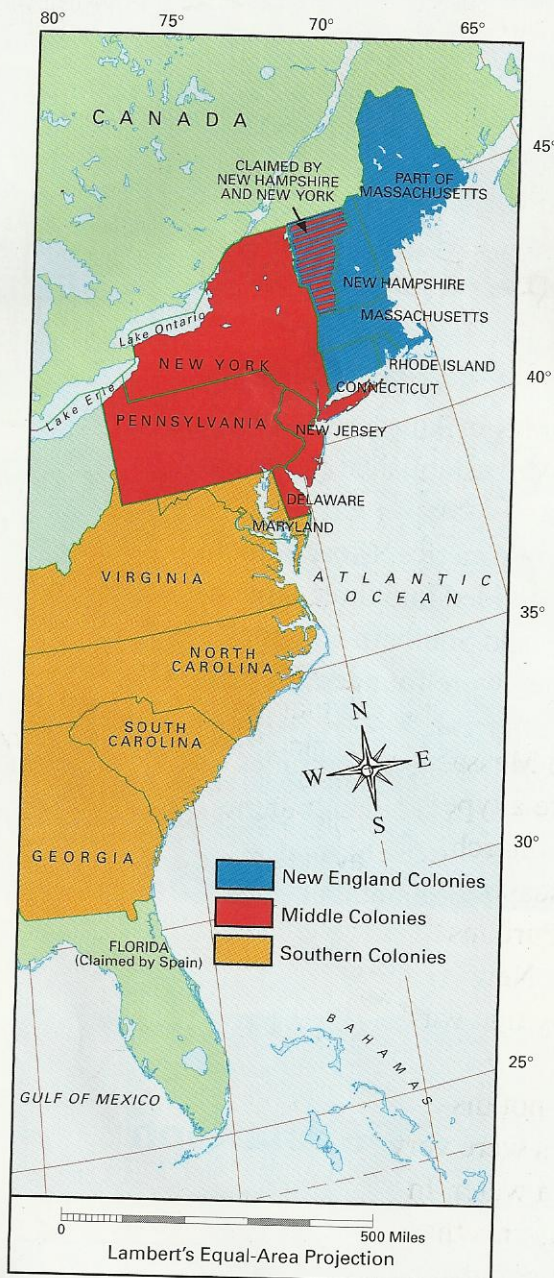
The colonies were different in important ways. They were founded for different reasons. The climate and geography of each was different. The **economy** of each colony varied. And the way the government was run in the colonies differed. Some colonial governments were more **democratic** than others.

Look at the map and matrix below. The map shows the three colonial regions. As you read this chapter, use the map and matrix to remember information about the colonial regions.

British Colonies in America: A Comparison



	Reason for Founding	Geography and Climate	Jobs	Government
New England Colonies				
Middle Colonies				
Southern Colonies				



7.2 The New England, Middle, and Southern Colonial Regions

The three colonial regions in America each had a different climate and geography. In addition, people settled these regions for different reasons. As a result, each region developed its own opportunities and ways of life.

The New England region included the colonies of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New Hampshire. This region had rocky soil, plentiful forests, and easy access to the sea. Consequently, New England colonists built an economy that was based on small farms, lumbering, fishing, shipbuilding, and trade.

Most New England colonists were Puritans. Puritans wanted to make the English (or "Anglican") church simpler, or more pure. Religion was very important in their daily lives.

The Middle Colonies included New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. The rich soil in this region allowed farmers to raise a wide variety of crops and cattle. Farmers sold pork, beef, wheat, and rye (a type of grain) to people in other colonies.

The strong economy of the Middle Colonies attracted people from European countries, such as Germany and Ireland, as well as from England. These people also came from different religious groups. As a result, the Middle Colonies had a **diverse** population.

The Southern Colonies included Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. This region's climate and geography favored "cash crops." Cash crops are grown in large quantities for sale to other people. In the Southern Colonies, crops like tobacco and rice were grown on large farms called *plantations*.

Plantations required many workers. Large landowners who came to the Southern Colonies from England depended on **indentured servants** and African slaves to plant and harvest their crops.

diverse: different from each other

indentured servants: individuals who agreed to work for a period of time in exchange for free passage from Europe



7.3 Massachusetts: New England Colony

As you learned in Chapter 6, the Pilgrims came to Massachusetts aboard the *Mayflower* in 1620. Pilgrims were a type of Puritans who wanted to separate from the English church.

Ten years later, many other Puritans decided to escape mistreatment by the government in England. These Puritans formed the Massachusetts Bay Colony and moved to New England in 1630. They wanted to create a community that was based on their religious beliefs.

The climate and geography of Massachusetts did not discourage the Puritans. The soil was rocky, and winters were very cold. However, there were also vast forests and clean water. In addition, the cold winters helped to kill insects and germs that caused disease. Because of this, colonists in New England often lived longer than people in other regions.

Massachusetts offered many job opportunities. Colonists grew crops and raised animals on small plots of land. They cut lumber in the forests, fished, and built trade ships. Some colonists became skilled whalers. They used whale fat to make oil and candles.

Massachusetts had a more democratic government than either England or other European countries. Nevertheless, only men who were members of the Puritan church could vote in the colony's elections. Once a year, a governor and representatives from different villages were elected to govern the colony. The colony's leaders made strict laws to preserve order.

Puritans came to Massachusetts so that they could practice their religion freely. They found the land to be rocky and the winters cold. Still, there were many jobs available.



Anne Hutchinson is shown here at her Massachusetts trial. Puritan leaders found her guilty of preaching beliefs that were different from those of the Puritan church. She was forced to leave Massachusetts, and she settled in Rhode Island.

7.4 Rhode Island: New England Colony

Rhode Island was founded so that people could freely practice different religions. In 1635, a young minister named Roger Williams ran into trouble for criticizing the government of Massachusetts. Unlike the colony's Puritan leaders, Williams believed that government and religion should be kept separate. Eventually, he was forced to leave Massachusetts.

Williams spent the winter with a group of Native Americans. In 1636, he started a town called Providence. This town became the capital of the New England Colony of Rhode Island.

Two years later, another preacher, Anne Hutchinson, spoke out against Puritan beliefs. She too was forced to leave Massachusetts, and she moved to Rhode Island. In time, the colony became known as a place where people with different religious beliefs were welcome.

Rhode Island's climate and geography allowed colonists to create a strong economy. Narragansett Bay and several rivers provided fish, transportation, and trade. Animals were trapped for their furs. The colony's forests provided timber. The soil in the southern part of the colony was good for farming. Winters were sometimes harsh, but summer rains were enough to grow healthy crops.

Most colonists in Rhode Island were farmers or traders. They raised animals and grew corn, tobacco, and beans on small farms. Ships from Rhode Island carried rum, sugar, wool, and beef to buyers in England and the West Indies (islands in the Caribbean Sea). Some colonists became rich by trading in African slaves, even though few of them owned slaves themselves.

Rhode Island was one of the most democratic colonies. In the early years, all men could vote for the colony's governor and local officials. Later, only men who owned property could vote. But voters did not have to belong to a church.

7.5 New York: Middle Colony

The colony that the British renamed *New York* was originally settled by people from the Netherlands. The Netherlands (often called *Holland*) is a country in Northern Europe. Its people are called *Dutch*. The Dutch came to the colony to set up fur-trading posts. The British, however, wanted this land so that English settlers in New England could move westward. In 1664, the British captured the colony. The king gave the land to his brother, the Duke of York.

New York's geography made it an excellent place for a colony. New York Harbor was ideal for shipping and trade. The valleys of the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers were well suited to farming and trade. Iron, a useful mineral, was available to be mined (dug out of the ground).

Winters in New York were cold, and summers were hot and humid (moist). But long growing seasons in valleys and along the coast made farming easier than in New England.

New York's economy offered good jobs for some people but also used the unpaid work of others. Farmers grew wheat, corn, vegetables, and tobacco. Other New Yorkers became miners, lumbermen, sailors, trappers, merchants, and craftsmen. However, some of these workers were indentured servants or African slaves.

Colonists had little say in New York's government. The colony had a powerful governor who was appointed by British royalty. The governor appointed other officials and enforced the laws.

In 1664, the British took New York, shown below, from the Dutch. After that, British settlers in the New England Colonies could move westward.



William Penn treated Native Americans fairly and insisted upon paying them for their land. In return, the Native Americans lived peacefully with the Quakers, who came to the colony for religious freedom.



7.6 Pennsylvania: Middle Colony

The Middle Colony of Pennsylvania was **granted** to an English Quaker named William Penn in 1681. Quakers disagreed with the beliefs and ceremonies of other churches. They had no priests or ministers, and they refused to fight in wars. Before coming to America, Penn was put in jail several times for his beliefs. He wanted to start a colony where Quakers could live safely.

As a result of Penn's ideas, Pennsylvania attracted people from a number of countries and religions. Penn treated Native Americans as friends, and they lived in peace with the colonists. African slaves were brought to the colony as well, even though many Quakers were opposed to slavery.

Pennsylvania's geography created many opportunities for colonists. Forests provided plenty of timber. The Delaware River Valley had rich soil for farming. Minerals, such as iron and coal, were plentiful. Rivers provided easy transportation. Winters were cold and snowy, but that did not discourage colonists.

Pennsylvania developed a very successful economy with many available jobs. Farmers raised dairy cattle and grew vegetables, corn, and wheat. Other colonists became miners, lumbermen, merchants, and craftsmen. Pennsylvania became known as the best "poor man's" colony, because taxes were lower and there were no special church taxes. At the same time, many Quaker merchants and farmers became quite wealthy.

Pennsylvania's government included a governor and a Provincial Council that made the laws. A General **Assembly** met to pass or to reject these laws. All male property owners could vote for members of the assembly. William Penn appointed the governor with the approval of the king.

grant: To give to someone something he or she has asked for. For example, the king granted William Penn the land called *Pennsylvania*.

assembly: a group of government officials who meet to make laws

7.7 Maryland: Southern Colony

Cecilius Calvert started the Southern Colony of Maryland in 1634 for two reasons. First, Calvert hoped to make money. Second, he wanted to provide a safe place for Catholics to practice their religion. In England and in some colonies, Catholics like Calvert were harshly treated by non-Catholics and the British government.

Maryland's geography and climate were perfectly suited for growing and selling tobacco. Tobacco plants grew well in the hot, steamy summers. Chesapeake Bay split the colony in half and provided a route to the sea. Tobacco farmers near the bay could easily ship their crops to Britain and other places. Unfortunately, the climate also encouraged mosquitoes that spread disease.

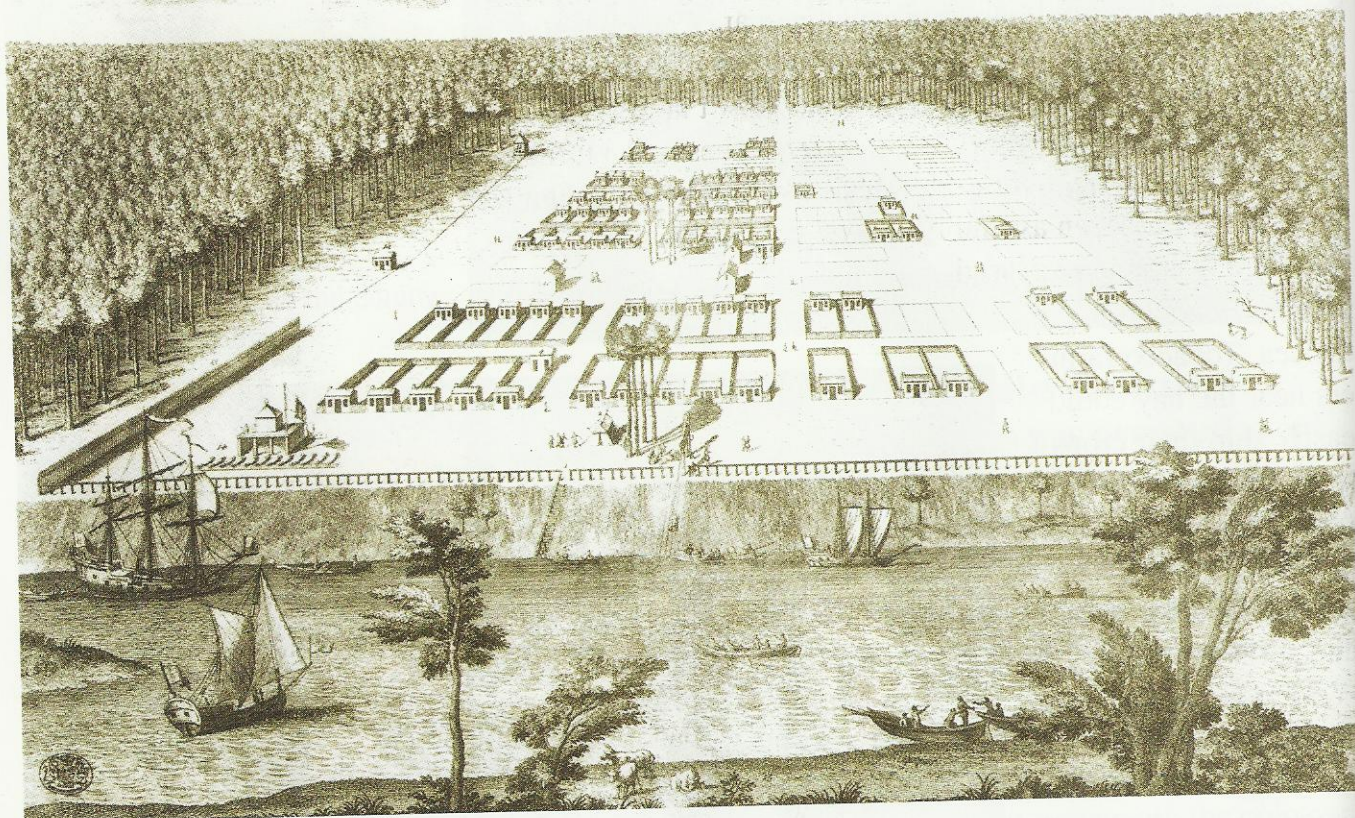
There were many job opportunities in Maryland. Most colonists there worked small farms. They grew tobacco, corn, wheat, and fruit trees. Other colonists were involved in lumbering, shipping, fishing, and raising cattle for beef and milk. Some bought and sold slaves.

Families who grew tobacco on large plantations became rich. However, most of the work on plantations was done by African slaves and indentured servants.

Participation in Maryland's government was limited. At first, Calvert himself was in charge of Maryland's government. In 1638, Calvert permitted the colony to have an assembly. Generally, white men with property could vote for members of the assembly. As more non-Catholics moved to the colony, Calvert convinced the assembly to pass a law that protected Catholics' right to vote and to serve in the government.



This painting, *The Founding of Maryland* by Emmanuel Leutze, shows the importance of religion to the Catholics who settled Maryland.



Pierre Fourdrinier made this engraving to encourage people to come to Georgia. The founders hoped to provide a place where poor people could avoid falling into debt.

7.8 Georgia: Southern Colony

The Southern Colony of Georgia was started in 1732 for two main reasons. First, the British government wanted to keep the Spanish from moving north. The Spanish were already in Florida, to the south.

Second, some wealthy Englishmen wanted to help poor people escape debtor's prison. Debtors are people who owe money (debts). At that time, debtors in England went to jail if they could not pay their bills. A colony in America could provide opportunities for poor people to support themselves.

The climate and geography of Georgia were ideal for growing certain crops. Winters were mild. Summers were hot and humid. The southern part of the colony had swampland (low, wet areas). Swampland was good for growing rice and indigo, a plant used to make blue dye (coloring). In the north, forests provided lumber for homes. After trees were cut down, the cleared fields were suitable for farming.

Farming was the most important job in Georgia, but there were other occupations. Besides rice and indigo, farmers grew

cotton and tobacco. Other colonists traded goods with Native Americans. Still others were craftsmen such as shoemakers, bricklayers, blacksmiths, and potters. At first, the colony did not permit slavery, but later it was allowed and used widely.

When Georgia began, only the rich men who had started the colony ran the government. They passed laws that they thought were best for the colony. In 1752, however, these men turned control of the colony over to the British king. The king allowed white men to elect an assembly. However, the king could stop any law the assembly passed.

7.9 Chapter Summary

In this chapter, you learned about the British colonies in the future United States. You used a map of colonial regions to study the New England, Middle, and Southern Colonies.

Different opportunities and ways of life developed in the three colonial regions. One cause of these differences was the variety in climate and geography. Another was that colonies were started for different reasons.

Even colonies within the same region differed in their governments and laws. Still, many colonists experienced more democratic government than they had known in England and in other European countries.

Some colonists came to America in search of religious freedom. Others came hoping to become rich or simply to escape from debt. One group, however, did not come to America by choice at all: African slaves. Who were these enslaved people? How did they become enslaved? Why were they put in chains and taken to a new country far from home? You will find out in the next chapter.



Colonial settlers established towns with churches, schools, and government buildings.